

CLAIMS:

1. Metal halide lamp suitable as projection lamp, for instance as a vehicle headlamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling comprising an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two
5 electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, characterized in that said ionizable salt comprises NaI, TII, CaI_2 and XI_3 , wherein X is selected from the group comprising rare earth metals.
2. Metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein X is selected from the group
10 comprising Ce, Pr, Lu, Nd.
3. Metal halidelamp according to claim 1 or 2, wherein X is Ce and wherein the molar percentage ratio $\text{CeI}_3/(\text{NaI} + \text{TII} + \text{CaI}_2 + \text{CeI}_3)$ lies between 0 and 10%, in particular between 0,5 and 7%, more in particular between 1 and 6.
15
4. Metal halidelamp according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein X is Ce and wherein the molar percentage ratio $\text{CaI}_2/(\text{NaI} + \text{TII} + \text{CaI}_2 + \text{CeI}_3)$ lies between 20 and 90%, in particular between 35 and 85%, more in particular between 45 and 80%.
- 20 5. Metal halidelamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 4, wherein the amount of NaI, TII, CaI_2 and XI_n lies between 0,005 and 0,5 g/cm^3 , in particular between 0,025 and 0,3 g/cm^3 .
6. Metal halidelamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 5,
25 wherein the filling comprises Hg.
7. Metal halide lamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 6 to be used as projection lamp, in particular in a vehicle headlamp.